

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In autumn of 1952, at the time when the Soviet garrisons in Poland and East Germany were being rotated and many military transports were going from Bialystok into the Soviet Union, via the border points at Brest and Grodno, numerous Soviet soldiers deserted from these transports. Soldiers from the transports routed through Brest deserted in an area known as Polesie, which is behind the Polish-Soviet border, while those from transports directed through Grodno deserted in Polish territory before the trains reached Grodno.
2. The Soviet deserters include some Byelorussians and young men of Polish origin who were born in areas which were Polish prior to the establishment of the present Polish-Soviet border. These young men were deported to the Soviet Union during the war and the immediate post-war period, either with or without their parents, and were not returned to Poland.
3. Numerous groups of deserters, armed with rifles and light machine guns, roam the forests on either side of the Polish-Soviet border; some of the groups number as many as 50 men. They have obtained food and clothing by holding up trucks loaded with supplies en route to factories, offices and cities. Eventually, the Soviet MVD and the Polish KBW (Internal Security Corps) were compelled to provide armored car escorts to protect the supply transports on the highways.
4. During December 1952 a number of battles were waged between these partisan bands and the MVD and KBW troops; the encounters occurred near Kamieniczka, east of Hajnowka (S 53/Y 17) on Polish territory; near Zhabinka and Kobrin, on Soviet territory, and near Drohoslaw on the Polish-Soviet border. An unknown number of participants were killed and wounded on both sides, but the MVD and the KBW suffered the heavier casualties.

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